

Message Text

SECRET

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44-S
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 241439Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8173

S E C R E T BELGRADE 6277

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN FROM AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN
DEPT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR EAGLEBURGER ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR YO
SUBJ: WHO SHOT JOHN?

REF: STATE 236704

1. I AM VERY APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR CABLE SINCE IT TENDS TO
CLARIFY WHAT WAS PREVIOUSLY AMBIGUOUS, I.E., YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE ACTIONS OF EE OVER THE LAST YEAR CONCERNING WHICH
I HAVE OFTEN COMPLAINED. IT IS ALWAYS BETTER FOR THESE
MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE OPEN AND FOR THOSE RESPONSIBLE
TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY.

2. AS TO PARANOIA LOOK TO YOURSELF. I MADE NO CHARGE THAT
YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL
GROUP. I DID, HOWEVER, HOPE THAT YOU MIGHT CONTRIBUTE
TO THE REDRESSING OF AN OBVIOUS REBUKE TO A REPORTER
UNDER FIRE HERE IN YUGOSLAVIA.

3. I SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN WHAT PART OF MY ONLY
PUBLIC STATEMENT--AT THE BELGRADE AIRPORT--YOU BELIEVE
UNTRUE. AS FOR MY ATTACK BEING PUBLIC AND ATTRIBUTABLE
TO ME, MY OWN VIEW IS THAT WAS AN HONORABLE WAY TO
RESPOND TO THE ANONYMOUS AND COWARDLY HATCHET JOB IN
THE JUNE 18 WALL STREET JOURNAL, A STYLE REPEATED IN

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THE TWO BINDER ARTICLES. IT WOULD SEEM THAT WE SANCTION

QUITE DIFFERENT STANDARDS OF CONDUCT. I HAVE ALWAYS
DESPISED THE ANONYMOUS LEAK USED TO ATTACK A FELLOW
GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL.

4. YOUR CONVICTION THAT YOUR SUBORDINATES HAVE REMAINED
SILENT CARRIES WITH IT AN ASSURANCE THAT YOU KNOW THE
IDENTITY OF THE SOURCES OF BOTH THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
PIECE AND THE TWO BINDER ARTICLES. I UNDERSTAND THE
SECRETARY AND EAGLEBURGER ARE ANXIOUS TO HAVE THAT
INFORMATION AND I WOULD CONFESS SO AM I.

5. AS TO YOUR THREAT TO MAKE PUBLIC ALL OF THE FACTS
WHICH UNDERLIE MY DISPUTE WITH EUR, IT IS ATTRACTIVE.
I AGREE THE PUBLIC WOULD BE WELL SERVED AT
THE APPROPRIATE TIME BY A VIRTUALLY FULL AIRING AND WOULD
BE QUITE WILLING TO WORK OUT A PROCEDURE FOR A MUTUAL RELEASE.

6. FINALLY, YOUR STATEMENT "MY PATIENCE...IS FAST
RUNNING OUT" SUGGESTS TO ME SEVERAL HONORABLE COURSES
OF ACTION ON YOUR PART. I ASSURE YOU I DO NOT INTEND
TO CHANGE MY APPROACH EITHER AS TO STYLE OR SUBSTANCE.
I HAVE MADE NO SECRET OF MY VIEW THAT MY LOYALTY AND MY
DUTY IS OWED TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF
STATE ONLY AND I SHALL BE UNDETERRED BY THE VIEWS OF
YOU AND YOUR SUBORDINATES AS FAR AS I VIEW THEM
UNSOUND AND INCONSISTENT WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE
UNITED STATES UNLESS SPECIFICALLY SANCTIONED BY THE
SECRETARY. IN THAT CONNECTION, DID YOU
SEEK A REPRIMAND FOR MY BLED SPEECH AND WERE YOU IN
FACT DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR STATE 218409.

7. I CERTAINLY HOPE YOUR EXTRAORDINARY CABLE IS NOT
BASED ON YOUR OWN FRESH CALCULATIONS AS TO WHAT THE
POLITICAL FUTURE MAY BRING.
SILBERMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BELGRA06277
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840098-2294, D760361-0729
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760925/aaaaausk.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 76 STATE 236704
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <14 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WHO SHOT JOHN
TAGS: PFOR, PEPR, YO, US, (SILBERMAN, LAURANCE H), (HARTMAN, ARTHUR A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006